(b) the steps Government are going to take to ensure that children in rural areas of the country are attracted to schools through new methods of pre-primary and primary schooling system; and

(c) the steps contemplated to check mushrooming of pseudo public schools in urban areas, lessening the load of books on small kids and encourage standard schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has published, recently a document entitled, 'Minimum Specifications for Pre-schools', which provides reference material for standardisation of nursery schooling.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to attract children from rural areas to primary schools include, (i) introduction of joyful, activity-based teaching methodology at both pre-primary and primary levels and (ii) strengthening linkages between the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (ICDS) with pre-school and primary school programmes.

(c) The State/UT Governments adopt regulatory measures to check mushrooming of public schools. To encourage standard schools and also lessen the load of books on small children, the Government constituted Yash Pal Committee. This Committee, has *inter-alia*, recommended reduction of the burden of school bag of school children. The recommendation have been sent to State/UT Govts. for consideration and implementation. The State Governments have also undertaken a review of existing text books under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) with a view to make them more attractive for children.

अल्मोड़ा में डिग्री कालेज खोला जाना

2168. **श्री मालती शर्मा:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अल्मोड़ा जिले में भिकियासैण तहसील, केन्द्र में उच्चतर शिक्षा के लिए कोई डिग्री कालेज नहीं है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) सरकार भिकियासैण तहसील में कब तक डिग्री कालेज खोलने का विचार रखती है ताकि आसपास के गांवों में रहने वाले लोग उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने की सुविधा का लाभ उठा सकें?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Settlement of Pension Cases of KVS Employees

2169. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan whose pension cases involving past service have not yet been settled although they had retired in 1986-87;

(b) whether it is a fact that some such cases have been settled despite there being gaps in their service continuity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not extending this precedent and benefits to analogous claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.